CLAIMS

1.   A method for real-time printing comprising:

during generation of a document,

continually converting new document information into a fractional print job;

sending each fractional print job to a printer; and

rendering each fractional print job as a raster data package.

2.   A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising storing each raster data package in a memory on the printer.

3.   A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising forming a raster page from one or more raster data packages.

4.   A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

after completion of the generation of document information,

printing the raster page.

5.   A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the completion of the generation of document information comprises receiving an instruction to print the document information.

6.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the converting further comprises formatting the fractional print job into a page description language.

7.   A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the page description language is a language selected from a group of languages comprising:

Printer Control Language (PCL); and

PostScript.

8.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the generation of document information comprises:

entering characters into a document;

transferring characters into the document;

drawing graphics into the document; and

downloading graphics into the document.

9.   A computer-readable medium comprising computer executable instructions configured to cause a computer to perform the method of claim 1.

10.   A method for real-time printing comprising:

during generation of a document,

continually converting new document information into a fractional print job; and

storing each fractional print job to create a print job.

11.   A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

receiving an instruction to print the document;

sending the print job to a printer; and

printing the print job.

12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the printing further comprises rendering the print job as raster data.

13. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the converting further comprises formatting the fractional print job into a page description language.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the page description language is a language selected from a group of languages comprising:

Printer Control Language (PCL); and

PostScript.

15. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the generation of a document comprises:

entering characters into the document;

transferring characters into the document;

drawing graphics into the document;

downloading graphics into the document; and

altering characteristics of the document.

16. A computer-readable medium comprising computer executable instructions configured to cause a computer to perform the method of claim 10.

17. A method for real-time printing comprising:

receiving fractional print jobs;

rendering each fractional print job as one or more raster data packages;

storing each raster data package.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

receiving a print instruction; and

printing all raster data packages.

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19. A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

receiving an updated job designated to update a prior fractional print job;

rendering the updated job as one or more updated raster data packages; and

storing each updated raster data package.

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20. A method as recited in claim 19, further comprising:

receiving a print instruction; and

printing all raster data packages.

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21. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the storing further comprising forming a raster page from raster data packages.

22. A computer-readable medium comprising computer executable instructions configured to cause a computer to perform the method of claim 17.

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23. A printer comprising:

a processor;

a memory; and

a collection module executable on the processor to receive fractional print

25 jobs, convert fractional print jobs into raster data packages, and store raster data packages as raster pages in the memory, each raster page comprising one or more raster data packages.

24. A computer comprising:

a processor;

a memory;

an application program executable on the processor to generate a document; and

a real-time driver configured to convert document information into fractional print jobs during generation of the document and send the fractional print jobs to a printer.

25. A system comprising:

a computer having a real-time driver, the real-time driver configured to continually convert newly generated document information into a fractional print job and to send each fractional print job to a printing device; and

the printing device having a collection module configured to receive each fractional print job, convert each fractional print job into one or more raster data packages, and store the one or more raster data packages;

wherein, upon receiving a print instruction from the computer, the printing device immediately begins printing raster data packages.

26. A system as recited in claim 25, wherein a fractional print job includes an updated fractional print job that represents a change made to previously generated document information.